Government's decesion over Goa declaration

7977. SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news-item captioned "Government undecided over Goa declaration" which appeared in the Hindustan Times, dated the 7th March, 1995; and

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government thereto and for how long the confusion is likely to be there on such a crucial issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (Shri R. L. BHATIA): (a) Yes, Sir. A four nation workshop on Global and Regional Arms Control was held in Goa from 14-19 January 1995. This was an NCO activity and no Indian official attended the Goa meeting.

(b) Government's policy on disarmament remains consistent and is outlined in India's Action Plan to usher in a Nuclear Weapon Free and Non-Violent World Order presented to the UN General Assembly's Third Special Session devoted to Disarmament in 1988. Government do not propose to take any initiative based upon the deliberations of the meeting in Goa.

Chaotic condition of Sapru House Library

7978. SHRIMATI MALTI SHARMA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in the 'Dainik Hindustan' of 11th April, 1995 under the caption 'Khasta Hallat Hai Sapru House Pushtakalaya Ka';

(b) if so the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Administration of the ICWA is having a good source of income from rent but every year some books are found misplaced from the library, only old stocks of books are available and the Administration could not spend more amount for the purchase of books; and

(d) if so, what action Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA) is an autonomous body, registered under the Registration of Societies Act. As such, Government has no control over its functioning. However, Government has been receiving from Members of Parliament and Public complaints regarding mismanagement and unsatisfactory functioning of the Sapru House Library. Government has suggested to the management of the Council to pass a resolution for the appointment of a high-powered advisory/supervisory committee to look into the affairs of the Council. The governing body has yet to pass the resolution. The Government will be able to take further action only after such a resolution is passed and is intimated to the Government.

Publications of External Publicity Division

7979. SHRI JAGIR SINGH DARD: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the new publications brought out by the External Publicity Division;

(b) why were the copies of these publications not supplied to Members of Parliament;